



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**JURY CONVICTS SPICKARD ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Spickard, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Jerry Dean Urick, 38, of Spickard, was found guilty by a federal trial jury of being an armed career criminal in possession of a firearm.

Following the presentation of evidence in **Urick's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated for approximately 30 minutes before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey, ending a trial that began on Aug. 17, 2004.

The federal jury found **Urick** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Keystone Sporting Arms .22-caliber bolt-action rifle and an ERA 12-gauge shotgun on Feb. 7, 2004, in Grundy County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Urick** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for passing bad checks, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for burglary and driving while intoxicated, a 1986 criminal felony conviction for forgery and escape and a 1985 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing. **Urick** is classified as an armed career criminal because he was found in possession of a firearm after having been convicted of three or more violent felonies or serious drug offenses, Graves said.

Under federal statutes, **Urick** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow